

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-157

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL
OPPOSING STATE BUDGET DECISIONS THAT
WOULD "BORROW" LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2008, the State Legislature missed its Constitutional budget deadline; and

WHEREAS, both the Governor and the Legislative Budget Conference Committee have recommended balanced budgets without resorting to "loans" of local government property tax and transportation sales tax funds; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 by an 84% margin of approval, the voters of California approved Proposition 1A and sent a loud and unambiguous message to state leaders that they should stop the destructive practice of taking local government funds to finance the state budget and paper over the state deficit; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 by a 77% margin of approval, the voters of California also approved Proposition 1A, providing similar protections to transportation funding for state and local transportation projects, including important street maintenance and public transit programs; and

WHEREAS, both ballot measures allow the Governor to declare a "severe state of fiscal hardship" and "borrow" these funds if they are repaid in three years with interest, but the Governor believes it would be irresponsible to "borrow" such funds because it would deepen the state's structural deficit and cripple local government and transportation services; and

WHEREAS, refusal by the Legislature to carry out its constitutional obligation to compromise on a balanced budget is not a "severe state of fiscal hardship" and would not justify reductions in critical local services and infrastructure at a time when cities are struggling to balance their own budgets during this economic down turn; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature should balance the state budget with state revenues and respect the overwhelming support of voters for not using local property taxes and transportation sales tax funds to fund the day-to-day operating cost of state programs; and

WHEREAS, it would be irresponsible to ignore the state structural deficit with more borrowing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lodi City Council does hereby oppose any and all efforts by state government to "borrow" local tax funds and transportation sales tax funds by the state government to finance state operations. Such a move would not be responsible and would hamper effective local services and infrastructure investments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby directed to send this resolution and communicate this Council's strong and unswerving opposition on this matter to the Legislators and the Governor along with an expression of our continued appreciation for the Governor's steadfast opposition to further legislative borrowing and raids on local government and transportation funding.

Dated: August 6, 2008

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2008-157 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held August 6, 2008, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hansen, Hitchcock, Johnson, Katzakian,
and Mayor Mounce

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None


RANDI JOHL
City Clerk